

Whereas, public funding of improvements to the railroad infrastructure, together with completion of the scheduled improvements to Interstate Route 81, would provide an example to the nation of the significant public benefits resulting from the use of public funds in providing a viable rail alternative for the transportation of interstate freight; now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring,* That the United States Congress be urged to appropriate funds for improvement of rail infrastructure in the Interstate Route 81 corridor. Such improvement shall ensure that the railroad that parallels Interstate Route 81 in Virginia provides a viable alternative to the use of Interstate Route 81 for the movement of interstate freight traffic; and, be it

*Resolved further,* That the General Assembly of Virginia support the conclusions of the study conducted by the Virginia Department of Rail and Public Transportation and commend it to the United States Congress for consideration; and, be it

*Resolved finally,* That the Clerk of the Senate transmit copies of this resolution to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation, and the members of the Virginia Congressional Delegation in order that they may be apprised of the Sense of the General Assembly in this matter.

POM-18. A joint resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington relative to the 1946 Rescission Act; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 4002

Whereas, The Philippine Islands was a territory of the United States until July 4, 1946, and the United States had control over Philippine nationals and its internal affairs. The Philippines Commonwealth had no function in matters of foreign affairs and could not declare war nor surrender its forces; and

Whereas, On July 26, 1941, U.S. President Roosevelt issued a Military Order and invoked his powers under Section 2(a)(12) of the Philippine Independence Act (P.L. No. 77-127 Section 10(a)) to "call and order into the service of the Armed Forces of the United States . . . all of the organized military forces of the government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines"; and

Whereas, World War II is remembered as The Good War that President Roosevelt claimed to have defended the great human freedoms against the encroachment and attack of the dark forces of despotism; and

Whereas, Filipino soldiers fought during World War II under the American flag and under the direction and control of United States military leaders pursuant to President Roosevelt's July 1941 Military Order; and

Whereas, Shortly after the war in 1946, the U.S. Congress passed the Rescission Act which specifically mandates that services rendered by Filipino World War II veterans " . . . shall not be deemed to have been active military, naval, or air service for the purposes of any law of the United States conferring rights, privileges or benefits . . ."; and

Whereas, The legislative rider appended to the 1946 Rescission Act denies U.S. military status and benefits to those veterans who fought under the command of officers of the U.S. Armed Forces in the Philippines; and

Whereas, The significant and adverse impact of the 1946 Rescission Act is its unjust discrimination against Filipino soldiers of

World War II by denying them eligibility for equal benefits administered by the department of veterans affairs; and

Whereas, Filipinos are the only national group singled out for denial of full U.S. veterans status while the soldiers of more than sixty-six other U.S. allied countries, who were similarly inducted into the service of the armed forces of the United States during World War II, were granted full U.S. veterans status; and

Whereas, The United States government has yet to fully restore the rights, privileges, and benefits guaranteed, then taken away from Filipino soldiers of WWII; and

Whereas, The gallantry, loyalty, and sacrifices of Filipino veterans of WWII, who fought for freedom and democracy in the Armed Forces of the United States, deserve recognition and their honor and dignity restored; and

Whereas, There is no pending legislation in the U.S. Congress that will restore full United States veterans status to Filipino WWII veterans: Now, therefore

Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the President and Congress of the United States during the First Session of the 106th Congress take action necessary to amend the 1946 Rescission Act and honor our country's moral obligation to restore these Filipino veterans full United States veterans status with the military benefits that they deserve; be it

*Resolved,* That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

#### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. GRASSLEY:

S. 756. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend and modify the credit for electricity produced from biomass, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 757. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 504 West Hamilton Street in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as the "Edward N. Cahn Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 21

At the request of Mr. DASCHLE, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 21, a bill to establish an off-budget lockbox to strengthen Social Security and Medicare.

S. 133

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the names of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr.

CLELAND) were added as cosponsors of S. 133, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make permanent the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance programs, and for other purposes.

S. 152

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. SMITH of New Hampshire) was added as a cosponsor of S. 152, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate the 60-month limit and increase the income limitation on the student loan interest deduction.

S. 170

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. HELMS) were added as cosponsors of S. 170, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to permit retired members of the Armed Forces who have a service-connected disability to receive both military retired pay by reason of their years of military service and disability compensation from the Department of Veterans Affairs for their disability.

S. 177

At the request of Mr. AKAKA, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mrs. CARNAHAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 177, a bill to amend the provisions of title 39, United States Code, relating to the manner in which pay policies and schedules and fringe benefit programs for postmasters are established.

S. 219

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 219, a bill to suspend for two years the certification procedures under section 490(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 in order to foster greater multilateral cooperation in international counter-narcotics programs, and for other purposes.

S. 311

At the request of Mr. DODD, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 311, a bill to amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to provide for partnerships in character education.

S. 326

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 326, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 15 percent reduction in payment rates under the prospective payment system for home health services and to permanently increase payments for such services that are furnished in rural areas.